

QUARTERLY NARRATIVE REPORT

NARRATIVE REPORT QUARTER ONE, JANUARY-MARCH 2024



Report prepared and submitted by: Change Lead Agency Social Support (CLASS)

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Report Public

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List of acronyms

CLASS	Change Lead Agency Social Support.
CAY	Children, Adolescent and Youth
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
COC	Champion of Change
PIU	Plan International Uganda
PWD	Persons with Disabilities
CC	Climate change
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
LCs	Local Councillors
SES	Senior Expert Service
T/C	Town council
S/C	Sub county

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1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 About Change Lead Agency Social Support (CLASS)

Change Lead Agency Social Support (CLASS) is a youth-focused nongovernmental organization started by people of like-minded and zeal to do charitable work in Uganda. It is registered with URSB (**Registration Number: 80020002304277**), legally registered with Uganda National NGO Bureau (**Registration Number: INDR156284736NB**), Alebtong District Local Government (**Registration Number: ADLG/2020/147**), Amugu Sub-County Local Government (**Registration Number: ASLG/CBS/001/020**) and affiliated to Lango Civil Society Network (LACSON) formerly Lira NGO Forum (**Registration Number: LF/NGO/LR/1310**), Girls Not Brides Uganda Partnership to end child marriage, National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders Uganda, Digital Rights Alliance Africa, Uganda Network of AIDS Service Organizations (UNASO) with a permit (**Permit Number: NDP0004736NB**) to operate nationwide and with certificate from Finance Intelligence Authority of Uganda (**Registration Number: FIA-14-001137**). CLASS is currently working in Alebtong District since its inception in 2016 towards promoting the wellbeing of children and youth in the areas of education, SRHR, WASH, Food and Nutrition, HIV/AIDS, SGBV, youth participation, youth economic empowerment and climate change response.

1.2 Vision, Mission & core values

Vision: A global centre for promoting the wellbeing of children and youth

Mission: To facilitate change for socioeconomic wellbeing of children and youth

Core values: Respect for humanity, partnership, transparency and accountability, commitment to law and justice

1.3 CLASS main objectives

- 1) To be a lead voice for children and youth
- 2) To give chance to children/youth to participate and contribute positive advocacy for child justice and wellbeing.
- 3) To enhance Sustainable conservation and protections of environment and disaster response.
- 4) To promote access to education for vulnerable groups.
- 5) To support programs that increase access to safe, clean water and basic sanitation.
- 6) To mobilize and equip individuals on food security and nutrition.
- 7) To create Gender awareness and mainstream gender in socioeconomic development.

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- 8) To promote sexual reproduction health and rights and tackle Sexual Gender Based Violence and HIV/AIDS.

1.4 CLASS core Programs

1. Child Development and Child Protection
2. Youth Economic Empowerment and Participation
3. Social norm changes and Gender transformation
4. Climate change (emergency/disaster response program)
5. Research

CLASS Partners

1. Plan International
2. Enventure
3. National Coalition for Human Rights Defenders Uganda

CLASS conducted the following activities during quarter one (January to March, 2024) mainly with funding support from Plan International;

- Selection and enrollment (third enrollment-cohort three) of trainees for vocational training under innovation hub program
- Training Out of School Children, Adolescents and Youth (CAY) through Champion of change clubs (cohort 2)
- Training and assessment of youth on Vocational/green skills

Outcome 1: Children, adolescents, and youth in all their diversity have the support and the confidence to make informed, responsible, positive, and healthy choices about their SRHR and future

Output 1.1 Children, adolescents, and youth have improved skills and knowledge on SRHR, healthy and positive sexuality, intimate relationships, and gender roles

Progress note and description of activities carried out

Activity 1.1.1 Training Out of School CAY through CoC clubs

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CHAMPION OF CHANGE CLUB TRAINING

The training commenced on 4th and 5th December, 2023 where the champions of change groups were formed and registered in Awapiny parish-Abako sub county and Abunga parish-Amugu sub county, Alebtong district respectively. Champions of change for gender equality and girls' rights is an initiative that work with young people out of school aged 15-24 years within a particular community mentored to advocate for gender equality and girls' rights since it is a fundamental requirement in life of every young person. In cohort two of champion of change engagement, 120 members in the age bracket of 15-24 years were registered under four groups that is 2 girls' groups of 30 members and 2 boys' groups of 30 members where a girls'/boys' group was hosted within each of the parishes mentioned respectively. Four (4) facilitators were assigned to train each group i.e. 2 female facilitators to train the girls' groups and 2 male facilitators to train the boys' group.

Training of CoC club members on CoC modules

The overall objective of this training was to mobilize girls and boys who were out of schools to collectively reflect on and challenge some customs around what it means to be a boy/young man and a girl/young woman in their community.

During quarter one 2024, both boys and girls in Abako and Amugu sub county were trained on module 7 (completed) championing inclusion where topics covered include; A1. Communicating with a deaf or hearing impaired person, A2. Communicating with intellectually impaired person, A3. Communicating with visually impaired person, A4. Communicating with physically impaired person, A5. Communicating with persons with psychosocial disabilities, A6. Disability friendly language exercise, A7. Game of life, A8. Making links with gender transformative change, A9. Starting our support and A10. Data collection and disability audit. Boys and girls were also taken through dialoguing gender where three topics were executed in Awapiny- Abako sub county and the module completed in Amugu sub county respectively. Both Boys in Abako and Amugu sub county (cohort 2) completed module one finding solidarity that included the following topics; A1. Starting the journey, A2. I trust you, do you trust me? A3. Who am I? A4. Let's identify safe spaces, A5. My space that I share with others, A6. How we communicate matters, A7. Putting yourself in someone else's shoe, A8. Build the house build the team, A9. Conflict resolution, A10. Imagining our future and A11. Learning to make decisions.

Both Girls in Abako and Amugu sub county completed 1-3 (M1. Being assertive, M2. Being gender aware and M3. Being body confident).

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In the champion of change engagements youth/young people got awareness on disability and realized the importance of disability inclusion into community programs. Today attitude of youth in Awaping and Abunga parishes have turned positive about persons with disability; they have appreciated the rights of PWDs, are treating them equally just like any other members of the community who have no disability, they are supporting them to commute to the training grounds and they have become ambassadors for disability inclusion in their communities.

Girls today have realized their rights, understood the different negative norms from within the community and are already challenging them for example, the girls are empowered to give their views in family meetings through assertive communication.

Boys have also realized who they are and the dangers of gender masculinity hence they are now promoting gender equality through sharing domestic responsibilities like helping girls in doing household chores. Both boys and girls are now making their right decisions in communities and are pursuing their life goals set during the CoC training sessions.

Selected activity photos



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Champions of change training session in Amugu and Abako Sub County respectively (cohort 2)

Output 1.3: Adolescents and young people, especially adolescent girls most at risk, have skills and increased links to pursue economic opportunities including alternative livelihood opportunities and green solutions

Progress note and description of activities carried out

Activity 1.3.1: Life Skills training through Innovation Hub

In this activity, a total of 42 youth (28 Males and 14 Females: 1 PWD inclusive) under cohort two participated in the training. Topics covered included; communication skills, people and the community (how to live and utilize the opportunities within the community), stress and stress management, people and power, job search, marketing and branding among others.

The life skills session made the youth to initiate positive relationships through introductions and understanding rules of conduct at the innovation hub and they each know one another into details. The participants acknowledged the fact that they will start to develop positive attitudes towards overcoming specific problems that they encounter.

Identification of Cohort three youth

Identification process for cohort 3 youth has been completed with 31 youth already selected for various vocational skills development courses (Motorcycle repair-15, Hairdressing-6, Fashion design-5 and welding-5 youth) waiting to be placed in April 2024.

Activity 1.3.2: Vocational/Green Skills training through Innovation Hub

Training of youth on Vocational/Green skills

The training of youth in vocational/Green skills for cohort two 2024 in the different training centres under innovation hub program has been completed i.e. the 42 youth (28 Males and 14 Females: 1 female PWD inclusive) enrolled and trained under different respective training courses such as 8 girls for Hair dressing, 20 boys for motorcycle repair and maintenance, 8 youth (1girl: 7boys) for welding and 6 youth (5girls: 1 boy) for bakery.

The purpose of this training was to empower Children Adolescents and Youth (CAY) with life skills and livelihood skills, knowledge and inspire them to create solutions to their life challenges in a safe space.

At the end of cohort two training, assessments were conducted both practical and theory on the basis of 80% and 20% respectively. By the time the youth were passed out, 4 of them had already secured employment (3 from hairdressing and 1 from Motorcycle repair)

A 1.3.1.3 Business skills training

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Overall 42 youth (28 Males and 14 Females; one PWD inclusive) enrolled at the innovation hub cohort 2 benefited from business skills sessions (i.e. session 1: What is a business? And session 2: Profit and Loss). The overall goal was to help young people start up a business, or improve their existing business, by taking them through core business skills. The youth were able to understand what a business is, how the basic process of buying and selling works. They are employing the knowledge on business skills got in protecting their businesses and handling their daily tasks like protecting their business and companies against loss, and maximizing their profit.

Cohort three

A total of 31 youth have been selected already for cohort 3 enrolment running through April to September 2024

Activity.1.3.2.1: Hairdressing and Saloon training

Selection and enrolment of youth (third enrolment-cohort 3 2024)

The purpose of this process was to select and enrol suitably qualified program participants to be trained on hairdressing skills.

During this activity, call for application was advertised to give open opportunities to out of school youth where girls and Persons with Disabilities were encouraged to participate.

6 girls aged 15-24 years were selected and enrolled for hairdressing training with Ageno hairdressing Salon in Alebtong Town. The training will commence in April, 2024 with foundational courses that include; life skills, SRHR, climate change, disability inclusion among others.

Activity.1.3.2.2: Blacksmith and Metal Craft training

Selection and enrolment of youth (third enrolment-cohort three 2024)

The purpose of this process was to identify youth to be enrolled for welding and metal fabrication training skills.

A total of 4 people (4 boys) aged 15-24 years enrolled for welding and metal fabrication at Apado welders in Alebtong Town

Activity 1.3.2.4: Motorcycle mechanics training

Selection and enrolment of youth (third enrolment-cohort three 2024)

15 youth (all boys) were selected ready to be enrolled for Motorcycle repair training skills in Alebtong Town Council.

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Also 5 youth (1 male, 4 females) with 1 PWD have been enrolled for fashion and design training with Kicarwot Tailoring center in Aswir Sub County Alebtong District

Selected activity photos



Youth undergoing skills training in welding and motorcycle repair mechanic



End of cohort 2 youth assessment under innovation hub program

Outcome 4: Children, adolescents, and youth in all their diversity participate and benefit from a vibrant civil society that advocates for increased public investment and improved SRHR policy and promotes equality for and agency of girls

Output 4.1: CSOs have improved their capacity to influence ASRHR and gender equality for CAY in all their diversity and advocate for their rights

Progress note and description of activities carried out

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Activity 4.1.1: Capacity building on resource mobilization (Senior Expert Service program)

This was organized for 29th January-22nd February, 2024 by Senior expert service (SES) program through a local partner Purewish Foundation Uganda targeting 18 participants from 11 Civil Society Organizations in both Lango and Acholi sub region where CLASS participated actively. The training was conducted by Dr. Gundi Dick from Austria under SES program in Lira City. The purpose of the activity was to build capacities of the growing CSOs on resource mobilization with the major emphasis on donor search, proposal writing and organizing proposals.

During the activity, CLASS was trained on donor search where the organization learnt how to identify the different fund raising sites (like newsletter, devex among others), types of donors and their interests. CLASS was also trained on proposal writing that included types of proposals, SWOT analysis of the CSOs, chapters of proposals (project rationale/problem statement, project goal and objectives, strategies and activities, project results, monitoring and evaluation and the project budget design).

CLASS was able to develop and submit a social enterprise proposal to Roddenberry Foundation aimed to tackle youth unemployment in Alebtong District, this will increase funding for sustainability.

Selected activity photos



Training on resource mobilization by Dr. Gundi Dick under, SES program

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Output 4.3 Adolescents and young people, especially young people with disabilities, most at risk or in vulnerable situations, have space and support for innovation and participation

Progress note and description of activities carried out

Activity 4.3.1: Annual data collection

CLASS also participated in the 2023 annual data collection conducted from 17th-23rd January, 2024 at growth care Uganda, Abia sub county under Ayua Uganda targeting youth under innovation and digital development program and adults who participated in advocacy activities in Lira City and Abia sub county respectively.

The purpose of the activity was to evaluate the midterm impacts of I decide project in I decide project areas (Lira and Alebtong).

A total of 157 youth under innovation Hub-Lira and 42 parents- in Abia, Alebtong district were reached during the exercise. All targeted participants were reached and the required relevant information gathered.

Learnings

Participants and the community at large didn't know about disability and the best practices in handling disability related concerns for example, communication. Therefore, through the project officers CLASS planned for Home visits and observation at the training places

Persons with Disabilities have gained the courage to participate in community development fora gained confidence to express themselves in public and the youth appreciated the importance of disability inclusion hence are relating freely with PWDs

Gender inequality are still reflecting strongly within the communities of Awaping-Abako and Abunga-Amugu sub county where the community has attached more values to boys compared to girls, CLASS intends to engage more on awareness creation related activities

Boys realized their role in promoting gender equality and also appreciated the need to promote gender equality. These empowered boys need to be deployed to advocate for gender equality among other community members through outreaches and dialogues.

Communities have not done enough to promote self-esteem in girls hence they live in fear in a way that they are not able to express their views in public or in meetings. Facilitators to identify and deal with barriers triggering low self-esteem.

Challenges encountered during the quarter

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- Unpredictable weather changes have affected champion of change training sessions translated into late coming and absenteeism of young people expected to frequently attend the sessions.
- High expectation by the community members for free handouts like food and money when they attend an activity organized by the NGOs
- Inadequate parental support and guidance towards youth engagement in CoC activities and others hence young people participating with a lot of difficulties.

Recommendations

- CLASS should prioritize proper timing of champions of change sessions by adjusting meeting time to avoid disruption by weather changes.
- CLASS to identify and link partners offering other services that addresses the expectations of material things like food to be integrated into CoC activities and other community engagement.
- CLASS should consider the need for parents to be reoriented by way of conducting home visit where possible.
- The roll out of building bridges curriculum for parents' groups needs to be quickened to give parents more insights on how to support and engage their children on issues related to their SRHR services and information access.

Compiled by: Akello Nancy, Program Manager

Date 15/10/2024 **Sign:**

Checked by: Omara Moses, Executive Director

Date 16/10/2024 **Sign:**

Reviewed and approved by: Assoc.Professor Mary Ejang, Board of Director **Date** 25/10/2024 **Sign:**